

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

# INFORMATION REPORT

NO. OF PAGES 3

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SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO. ....

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2. This mapping project covered all Central Asia, i.e. the territory under the jurisdiction of the Central Asiatic Military District (Sredni Aziatski Voenni Okrug), with headquarters in Tashkent. This area at that time included the five Soviet Republics of Kazakh, Uzbek, Turkmen, Tadzhik, and Kirgiz. However, in 1946, the name of the district was changed to the Turkestan Military District (Turkestanski Voenni Okrug). The headquarters remained in Tashkent. The new district included the four Soviet Republics of Uzbek, Turkmen, Tadzhik and Kirgiz and four or five southern "oblasti" of the Kazakh SSR. The four or five northern

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-2-

50X1-HUM

"oblasti" of the Kazakh SSR were transferred to the Western Siberian Military District (Zapadni Sibirski Voenni Okrug), headquartered in Novosibirsk. The two northwestern "oblasti" of the Kazakh SSR were assigned to the Southern Ural Military District (Yuzhno Ural'ski Voenni Okrug), with headquarters in Chkalov. This was a more practical distribution of territory, particularly in regard to transportation and accessibility from headquarters. This new distribution of territory is in effect at the present time [1954], judging by the Soviet press.

3. The first new military maps made of Central Asia were tactical, with a scale of 1:100,000 (1 cm = 1 km). Certain areas, where major engagements could be expected, were covered by 1:50,000 maps. Tactical maps of 1:200,000 were made for uninhabited, desert areas, where there was little geographical detail to record. The over-all, new, military maps of Central Asia had scales of 1:500,000 and 1:1,000,000. Maps of areas previously covered were revised on the ground. Therefore, the revisions indicated whether a lake had dried up or a new one had appeared and showed new localities, extensions of railroad lines, and internal boundary changes. Previously unmapped areas were covered by new military maps.
4. New Soviet military maps used the German Gauss-Krueger grid system, which, among other things, indicated magnetic declination. As a grid system (koordinatnaya setka) is used basically to facilitate accurate artillery fire, this system was to be found on maps with a scale of 1:200,000 or larger. Smaller scale military maps, such as 1:1,000,000, usually only had the geographic coordinates of latitude and longitude.
5. During the period 1934-40, new military maps were also made [redacted] of Afghanistan and Iran. These were not the result of instrumental survey. The maps were printed and locked up in the Tashkent headquarters, along with the new maps of Central Asia. The Soviets had also obtained copies of maps of the instrumentally surveyed portions of Afghanistan and Iran, made by the governments of those two countries. These were also locked up in Tashkent. [redacted] only copies of the smaller scale maps of Central Asia, Iran, and Afghanistan would have been sent to Moscow.
6. By 1940, the military mapping of Central Asia had been completed. The maps were at once placed under lock and key in the Tashkent headquarters of the military district. They were housed in a separate building on the grounds of the topographic section [see par 7 below] of the headquarters. The structure was fireproof, had one floor, and was of red burnt brick (zheni kirpich). The maps were placed on wooden shelves (na stolezhakh). The building had armed sentries around it 24 hours a day. The only ones who saw the maps were officers who had had a hand in producing them. Soviet troops in Central Asia still used Czarist maps for training purposes. The new maps were intended to be used only in event of a major war. [redacted] these maps remained locked up in Tashkent even during World War II, as there was no fighting in that area.
7. The mapping was done by two or three military topographic detachments (voenni topographicheskii otdel), which were under the military topographic section of the district (voenni topographicheskii otdel okruga). This section was part of the district headquarters staff. It was housed in a separate building in Tashkent, at the intersection of Kulikovskaya and Gogolevskaya Ulitsi. The structure had two floors and was of red burnt brick. Under the director (nachalnik) of the section there were approximately 100 topographic officers, graduates of the three year course at the Leningrad Military Topographic School (Voenno Topographicheskaya Uchilishche). The section possessed printing presses to produce maps. During the summer - seven or eight months of the year, from April to November - the topographic personnel were out in the field surveying. During the winter they returned to Tashkent and made maps, with the aid of about 30 or 40 draftsmen, who included both men and women in their number.
8. [redacted]

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Primarily during 1937 and 1938, [redacted] worked at the Academy on over-all maps of Central Asia from the viewpoint of masking, or concealment, from ground and air and of passability.

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-3-

50X1-HUM

land was cultivated, which was untouched, and so forth. Monographs on the pertinent areas were attached. The material was used mainly in teaching economic and military geography at the Spetsshkola (Special School, ie military espionage school) in Moscow. About once a month, I gave lectures on economic and military geography at the Frunze Military Academy and used the material. Frunze published it in the form of booklets, which were given to the military students (slushateli). Upon the completion of the course, the booklets were returned. They were not publicly available. Map coordinates were transferred from the basic maps used in making up the material. The basic maps were:

- (a) usual type of maps found in atlases, 1:1,000,000;
- (b) study maps (uchebnii karti) of the Frunze Military Academy, not military type, 1:1,000,000;
- (c) a military map of 1:500,000 scale published by the Chief Military Topographic Administration in Moscow (Glavnaya Voenno-Topograficheskoye Upravlenie).

Map (c) was based on the Czarist 1:420,000 military map and had not been brought up to date. Old military maps gave no special name to the coordinate system used but merely indicated whether it was based on the Greenwich meridian, on Pulkova (an observatory near Leningrad), or on a point in the Canary Islands.

9. Soviet civilian maps passed through NKVD censorship. Even maps for use within the USSR were purposely incomplete and inaccurate, so that if they fell into foreign hands the maps would not reveal useful information. Secret instructions, printed separately from the map, explained how to use the map, ie a certain dotted line indicated a certain street which was a "rayon" boundary, and so forth. Also, if a new factory had to be located, one copied the pertinent portion of the map, plotted the location of the factory, and used the copy secretly. Military maps were not under the jurisdiction of the NKVD. They were printed either in Moscow or by the topographic section of the headquarters of a military district.

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